

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5           1.       A method for enabling a first receiver device to receive media content from a recorder device, said method comprising the steps of:
- a server computer receiving a first request from a first receiver device for a media content;
- said server computer locating a recorder device capable of receiving a transmission of said media content that satisfies said first request;
- said recorder device receiving a programming instruction from said server computer to record said media content when transmitted by a media content provider;
- said recorder device recording said media content during transmission of said media content by said media content provider; and
- said first receiver device receiving said media content recorded by said recorder device.
2.       The method as described in Claim 1 wherein said media content comprises television content.
- 20           3.       The method as described in Claim 1 wherein said media content comprises audio content.

4. The method as described in Claim 1 wherein said media content comprises video content.

5. The method as described in Claim 1 wherein said media content comprises graphics content.

6. The method as described in Claim 1 wherein said media content comprises information content.

7. The method as described in Claim 1 wherein said first receiver device, server computer, and recorder device are coupled via the Internet.

8. The method as described in Claim 1 wherein said transmission of said media content comprises a broadcast of said media content.

9. The method as described in Claim 1 wherein said transmission of said media content comprises a unicast of said media content.

10. The method as described in Claim 1 wherein said recorder device comprises a personalized video recorder (PVR).

11. The method as described in Claim 1 wherein said first receiver device comprises a personalized video recorder (PVR).

12. The method as described in Claim 1 further comprising the step of:  
said recorder device transmitting said media content recorded by it to said first  
receiver device.

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13. The method as described in Claim 1 further comprising the step of:  
said server computer receiving said media content recorded by said recorder  
device and transmitting it to said first receiver device.

14. The method as described in Claim 1 further comprising the step of:  
a cache server computer receiving said media content recorded by said  
recorder device and storing it; and  
said cache server transmitting a first copy of said media content recorded by  
said recorder device to said first receiver device.

15. The method as described in Claim 14 further comprising the step of:  
in response to said server computer receiving a second request from a second  
receiver device for said media content, said cache server transmitting a second copy  
of said media content recorded by said recorder device to said second receiver  
device.

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16. A computer readable medium having computer readable code embodied therein for causing a system to perform the steps of:

a server computer receiving a first request from a first receiver device for a media content;

5 said server computer locating a recorder device capable of receiving a transmission of said media content that satisfies said first request;

said recorder device receiving a programming instruction from said server computer to record said media content when transmitted by a media content provider;

10 said recorder device recording said media content during transmission of said media content by said media content provider; and

said first receiver device receiving said media content recorded by said recorder device.

15 17. The computer readable medium as described in Claim 16 wherein said media content comprises television content.

18. The computer readable medium as described in Claim 16 wherein said media content comprises audio content.

20 19. The computer readable medium as described in Claim 16 wherein said media content comprises graphics content.

20. The computer readable medium as described in Claim 16 wherein said media content comprises video content.

21. The computer readable medium as described in Claim 16 wherein said media content comprises information content.

22. The computer readable medium as described in Claim 16 wherein said first receiver device, server computer, and recorder device are coupled via the Internet.

23. The computer readable medium as described in Claim 16 wherein said transmission of said media content comprises a broadcast of said media content.

24. The computer readable medium as described in Claim 16 wherein said transmission of said media content comprises a unicast of said media content.

25. The computer readable medium as described in Claim 16 wherein said recorder device comprises a personalized video recorder (PVR).

26. The computer readable medium as described in Claim 16 wherein said first receiver device comprises a personalized video recorder (PVR).

27. The computer readable medium as described in Claim 16 further comprising the step of:

said recorder device transmitting said media content recorded by it to said first receiver device.

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28. The computer readable medium as described in Claim 16 further comprising the step of:

said server computer receiving said media content recorded by said recorder device and transmitting it to said first receiver device.

29. The computer readable medium as described in Claim 16 further comprising the step of:

a cache server computer receiving said media content recorded by said recorder device and storing it; and

said cache server transmitting a first copy of said media content recorded by said recorder device to said first receiver device.

30. The computer readable medium as described in Claim 29 further comprising the step of:

in response to said server computer receiving a second request from a second receiver device for said media content, said cache server transmitting a second copy of said media content recorded by said recorder device to said second receiver device.

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31. A method for enabling a receiver device to receive media content from a personalized video recorder device, said method comprising the steps of:

a server computer receiving a request from a receiver device for a media  
5 content;

said server computer locating a personalized video recorder device capable of receiving a transmission of said media content that satisfies said request;

said personalized video recorder device receiving a programming instruction from said server computer to record said media content when transmitted by a media  
10 content provider;

said personalized video recorder device recording said media content during transmission of said media content by said media content provider; and

said receiver device receiving said media content recorded by said  
15 personalized video recorder device, wherein said receiver device, server computer, and personalized video recorder device are coupled via the Internet.

32. The method as described in Claim 31 wherein said media content comprises television content.

20 33. The method as described in Claim 31 wherein said media content comprises audio content.

34. The method as described in Claim 31 wherein said media content comprises video content.

35. The method as described in Claim 31 wherein said transmission of said  
5 media content comprises a broadcast of said media content.

36. The method as described in Claim 31 wherein said transmission of said media content comprises a unicast of said media content.

37. The method as described in Claim 31 wherein said receiver device  
10 comprises a personalized video recorder (PVR).

38. The method as described in Claim 31 further comprising the step of:  
said recorder device transmitting said media content recorded by it to said  
15 receiver device.

39. The method as described in Claim 31 further comprising the step of:  
said server computer receiving said media content recorded by said recorder  
device and transmitting it to said receiver device.